

**James Madison to Edmund Randolph, April 23, 1782.
Incomplete; Partly in Cipher. Transcription: The
Writings of James Madison, ed. Gaillard Hunt. New
York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1900-1910.**

TO EDMUND RANDOLPH.¹

1 From the Madison Papers (1840).

Philadelphia, April 23, 1782.

Dear Sir, —Congress have received from the Minister of France some informal communications relative to the issue of the proposed mediation of Vienna and Petersburg. The answer of the British Court to the preliminary articles is among them. It rejects explicitly that part of the plan which requires concurrent negotiations between her and America, and guaranties the result, as incompatible with the relation of subjects to their sovereign, and the essential interests of the Empire; alleging, at the same time, that a great part of the people are disposed to return to their allegiance, and that such a treaty would supply the rebels with new pretexts for misleading them. The final answer of the mediating Courts professes great impartiality and delicacy toward the belligerent parties; adheres to the expediency of the first plan, and hopes that it may still become, under more favorable circumstances, the basis of a general pacification.

Another letter has come to hand from Mr. Dana. His proposed step was probably taken a few days after the date of it, which was about the middle of October.

The Committee on the last application from Vermont have reported fully in their favor. The consideration of the report will not be called for, however, till the pulse of nine States beats

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favorably for it. This is so uncertain that the agents have returned. The recognition of the Independence of Vermont is not fully stated in the report, as a resolution, antecedent, went to authorizing a committee to treat with them on the terms of their admission. You will know the object of this arrangement.